

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Bonnett S5293

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Lewis County } Ss.

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of Lewis C. Court at the Courthouse of said Co. now sitting, Peter Bonnett a resident of the said Co. of Lewis in the State of Virginia aged 69 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he was drafted in march 1779 or 1780 to serve a tour of eighteen months in the Virginia, under Capt'n. Jonathan Coburn. that he started in March 1779 or 80 (he cannot now say which year) from what is now Harrison Co. in Virginia, under Capt'n. Coburn and Major William Lowther who commanded Captains Coburn, George Jackson's & Jacob Westfall's Companies. They ascended the West fork river to where Browsville [sic: Brownsville] now stands from thence to what is now Elizabeth town near Pittsburgh, were halted at this last place as a kind of Rendezvous, from thence the affiant & companies performed in detachments many trips during that summer and fall on the Virginia side of the Ohio below Pittsburgh guarding against Indians were at times engaged in constructing boats, continued at Pittsburgh, Newell's store, and Mature's Island all the following winter finished the boats and procured flour and other rations a considerable supply, under the command of Colo [Joseph] Crockett, who arrived there some time in the fall 1779. - In the spring of 1780 or 81, not certain, but thinks it was 1780 the whole, or nearly so, of the Troops, as well Militia, as others descended the Ohio, some it was said were to join Gen'l. Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark], others were to go to Big Beaver [at present Beaver PA], others were to go to Neals Station [illegible word] at the mouth of little Kenhawa [sic: Little Kanawha River], where Parkersburg now stands. The troops started, some were halted at Big Beaver, some at Neals Station, and the residue proceeded on down the Ohio as declarant understood to join Gen'l. Clarke. Capt'n. Coburn was halted at Neals Station, there was stationed there when we arrived a company commanded by Capt'n. Sylvester Ward. - Here affiant and his brother Lewis Bonnett [pension application S5294] were ordered to act as Indian Spies. from April 1780 'till October 1780 they did act as Indian Spies during that period under the command of their Ensign Benjamin Sills and belonged to Capt'n. Coburn's company. He, and his brother Lewis Bonnett spied in what is now Mason, Jackson, Wood, and Tyler Counties. - The whole station and spies were under the control of Colo. Duvall who was occasionally there declarant was discharged in October 1780 or 1781. He was then prevailed on by his Capt'n. Coburn to agree to continue another year to act as an Indian Spy. Capt'n. Coburn urged the exposed situation of the frontier parts of Virginia as a plea, stated that it was easy to detect Indians along the Ohio who were marching against the settlements, and thus prevent much massacre; - declarant had already served eighteen months as a private soldier, as a militia man and Indian Spy from march 1779, or 1780, till October 1780, or 1781. - He consented to serve another year and again entered as well as he can now say in October 1780 to serve one year as an Indian Spy. - He and his brother Lewis, spied in now Mason, Jackson, Wood, & Tyler, counties in Virginia. The following winter was one of great severity [1780 - 81, "The Cold Winter" in Virginia] in which the troops all rendezvouzed at the mouth of little Kenhawa, suffered exceedingly from cold and scarcity of provisions when the spring came which was in March 1781, declarant continued his spying on the same tract of Country under Capt'n. Coburn 'till October 1781, or '82 when he was discharged and went home having served one year this last tour as a private soldier, and Indian Spy. He was ordered out again in April 1783, by Colo. B. Wilson, as an Indian Spy had a brother [John Bonnett] killed in a skirmish with indians, continued two months and was discharged, having served during the war of the Revolution not less than two years and six as above stated. [From here to \* marked "Omit" in the margin] He has no documentary evidence. - He knows of no person except his brother Lewis Bonnett, who testimony he can procure who can testify to his

services, - He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed, this day and year aforesaid.[\*] Peter hisXmark Bonnett.

The seven several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department. - He answered as follows. viz.

1<sup>st</sup>. That he was born in that part of Virginia which is now Hardy Co. [then Hampshire County] in the year 1764,

2<sup>d</sup>. That he has no record of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>. That he was living in that part of Virginia which is now Harrison Co. That he lived in different places in said Co. till Lewis Co. was detached in 1816, when he fell into the latter, and lives there still.

4<sup>th</sup>. That he was first drafted to serve 18 months on the western waters as a Private Militia man. then he volunteered to serve one year as an Indian Spy. was lastly ordered out in 1783 in April and served two months.

5<sup>th</sup>. He saw Colo. Gibson, Colo. Crockett, Major Walls, Colo. Duvall, and saw at Pittsburgh some General whose name he has forgotten. He also saw, and well knew Colo. Wilson, and Major Lowther. He saw at Pittsburgh what was called the 9<sup>th</sup>. reg't. - He thinks this was continental troops. He saw regular militia. The general circumstances of his service was as before stated

6<sup>th</sup>. He received two discharges from Capt'n. Coburn, one for 18 months service, and one for one year he has lost both. He received a verbal discharge from Colo. Wilson from his service in the Spring of 1783.

7<sup>th</sup>. He is known in his neighbourhood to Jacob Abbott, and Philip Cox Jr. They can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. there is no Clergyman residing near him. He can prove his services by his brother Lewis Bonnett who he now here produces in Court. - Subscribed and Sworn to this day and year aforesaid.

Peter hisXmark Bonnett,

Lewis Bonnett appeared in open Court this 5<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y. 1833, before the Justices of Lewis Co. court, and made oath that he is the brother of declarant, that he is now 71 years of age, that he was a fellow soldier with Peter Bonnett his brother, who has signed the above declaration. that said Peter is 69 years of age and that he did serve as he states above, subscribed and sworn to this day and year above written. Lewis hisXmark Bonnett.

We, Jacob Abbott, and Philip Cox Jr. residing in the county of Lewis in the State of virginia, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Peter Bonnett who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 69 years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to, and subscribed this day and year, aforesaid. Jacob Abbott Philip Cox Jr.

[The following is a report by W. G. Singleton, a district attorney who investigated a large number of fraudulent pension applications from Lewis and Harrison counties. For details see the pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Peter Bonnett. Pensioner.

Samuel Bonnett of Lewis County (a brother of Lewis, Jacob [S8080] & Peter Bonnett Pensioners) says he is now in his 65<sup>th</sup> year. that Jacob & Lewis are twin brothers four years older than himself, and that his Brother Peter is 18 mo. older than himself. - Samuel says that neither of his Brothers (Lewis Jacob nor Peter) were soldiers or done duty in the war of the Revo. and to the truth of this statement he is ready & willing to swear when called on. Jonathan Wamsly [Jonathan Wamsley] wrote their declaration & got their Pensions - Wamsly told (Samuel) that his brothers (Lewis Jacob & Peter) were to allow him out of their Pensions twenty dollars a piece each for five years. - Wamsly proposed getting him (Samuel) a pension on the same terms after he Samuel had told Wamsly his age & that he had not been in the Revo. War.

Witness Nathan Goff -

Signed Sam'l. hisXmark Bonnett

William Powers [S18164] aged 72 yrs. says that Peter Bonnett came west of the allegany

mountains in 1785 then a stripling of a boy

Nicholas Carpenter, Jno. Mitchel [S5761]& Henry Flesher [illegible word] the same as [illegible word].

This man Peter Bonnett I am told is exceedly Ignorant & wholly Illiterate.  
Respectfully Reported                      W. G Singleton    Special Agent.

NOTE: A document in the file states that Peter Bonnett was dropped from the pension roll on 16 Mar 1835.